

THE
M A N
OF
FEELING.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

L O N D O N:

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M D C C LXXXVIII.

W A M.

REELING

REELING



INTRODUCTION.

MY dog had made a point on a piece of lee-ground, and led the curate and me two or three hundred yards over that and some stubble adjoining, in a breathless state of expectation, on a burning first of September.

It was a false point, and our labour was in vain: yet, to do Rover justice, (for he is an excellent dog, though I have lost his pedigree) the fault was none of his, the birds were gone; for the curate shewed me the spot where they had lain basking, at the root of an old hedge.

I stopped and cried Hem! The curate is fatter than me; he wiped the sweat from his brow. There is no state where one is apter to pause and look round them, than after such a disappointment. Nay, it is even so in

IV INTRODUCTION.

life. When we have been hurrying on, led by some warm wish or other, looking neither to the right hand or to the left—we shall find of a sudden that all our gay hopes are flown ; and the only slender consolation that some friend can give us, is to point where they were once to be found. And lo ! if we are not of that combustible race, who will rather beat their heads in spite, than wipe their brows with the curate, we look round and say, with the listless nausea of the king of Israel, “**All is vanity and vexation of spirit.**”

I looked round with some such grave apothegm in my mind, when I discovered, for the first time, a venerable-looking pile, to which the inclosure belonged. An air of melancholy hung about it. There was a languid stillness in the day, and a single crow, that sat on an old tree at the side of the gate, seemed to delight in the echo which its croaking caused.

I leaned on my gun and looked ; but I had not breath enough to ask the curate a question. I observed carving on the bark of some of the trees: it was indeed the only mark of human art about the place, except

INTRODUCTION. ▶

that some branches appeared to have been lopped, to give a view of the cascade, which was formed by a little rill at some distance,

Just at that instant I saw pass between the trees, a young lady with a book in her hand. I stood upon a stone to observe her; but the curate sat himself down on the grass, and leaning his back where I stood, told me, "That was the daughter of a neighbouring gentleman of the name of WALTON, whom he had seen walking there more than once.

" Some time ago, said he, one HARLEY lived there, a whimsical sort of man I am told, but I was not then in the cure; though, if I had a turn for them things, I might know a good deal of his history, for the greatest part of it is still in my possession."

" His history!" said I. " Nay, you may call it what you please, said the curate; for indeed it is no more a history than it is a sermon. The way I came by it was this: Some time ago, a grave, oddish kind of man, lived at board in a farmer's house in this parish: The country people called him the Ghost; and he was

vi INTRODUCTION.

known by the slouch in his gait, and the length of his stride. I was but little acquainted with him, for he never frequented any of the clubs hereabouts. Yet for all he used to walk a-nights, he was as gentle as a lamb at times; for I have seen him playing at te-totum with the children, on the great stone at the door of our church-yard.

“ Soon after I was made curate, he left the parish, and went no body knows where; and in his room was found a bundle of papers, which was brought to me by his landlord. I began to read them, but I soon grew weary of the task; for, besides that the hand is intolerably bad, I could never find the author in one strain for two chapters together: and I do not believe there is a single syllogism from beginning to end.”

“ I should be glad to see this medley,” said I. “ You shall see it now, answered the curate, for I always take it along with me a-shooting.” “ How came it so torn?” “ It is excellent wadding,” said the curate.—It was a plea of expediency I was not in condition to answer; for I had actually in my pocket part of an edition of one of the German Illustrissimi, for the very

INTRODUCTION. vii

very same purpose. We exchanged books; and by that means (for the curate was a strenuous logician) we probably saved both.

When I returned to town, I had leisure to peruse the acquisition I had made: I found it a bundle of little episodes, put together without art, and of no importance on the whole, with something of nature, and little else in them. I was a good deal affected with some very trifling passages in it; and had the name of a Marmontel, a Rousseau, or a Richardson, been on the title-page—it is odds that I should have wept: But

One is ashamed to be pleased with the works of one does not know who.

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M A N

FEELING.

C H A P. XI.

C H A P. XI.

Of basfulness.—A character.—His opinion
on that subject.

TH E R E is some rust about every man at the beginning.—It is so every where ; though in some nations (among the French, for instance) the ideas of the inhabitants, from climate, or what other cause you will, are so vivacious, so eternally

* The Reader will remember, that the Editor is accountable only for scattered chapters, and fragments of chapters; the curate must answer for the rest. The number at the top, when the chapter was entire he has given as it originally stood, with the title which its author had affixed to it.

eternally on the wing, that they must even in small societies, have a frequent collision; the rust therefore will wear off sooner: but in Britain, it often goes with a man to his grave; nay, he dares not even pen a *bic jaset* to speak out for him after his death.

“ Let them rub it off by travel,” said the baronet’s brother, who was a striking instance of excellent metal, shamefully rusted. I had drawn my chair near his. Let me paint the honest old man: ’tis but one passing sentence to preserve his memory in my mind.

He sat in his usual attitude, with his elbow rested on his knee, and his fingers pressed on his cheek. His face was shaded by his hand; yet, ’twas a face that might once have been well accounted handsome; its features were manly and striking, and a certain dignity resided on his eye-brows, which were the largest I remember to have seen. His person was tall and well made; but the indolence of his nature had now made it incline to corpulency.

His remarks were few, and made only to his familiar friends: but they were such



such as the world might have heard with veneration : and his honest heart, uncorrupted by its ways, was ever warm in the cause of virtue and his friends.

He is now forgotten and gone ! The last time I was at Silton Hall, I saw his chair stand in its corner by the fire-side ; there was an additional cushion on it, and it was occupied by a young lady's favourite lap dog. I drew near unperceived, and pinched its ear in the bitterness of my soul ; the creature howled, and ran to its mistress. She did not suspect the author of its misfortune, but she bewailed it in the most pathetic terms : and kissing its lips, laid it gently on her lap, and covered it with a cambric handkerchief. I sat in my old friend's seat ; I heard the roar of mirth and gaiety around me : poor Ben Silton ! I gave thee a tear then : accept of one cordial drop that falls to thy memory now.

“ They should wear it off by travel.”— Why, it is true, said I, that will go far ; but then it will often happen, that in the velocity of a modern tour, and amidst the materials through which it is commonly made, the friction is so violent, that not only

only the rust, but the metal too is lost in the progress. Report said this : nothing
of much note now, & sw all yd heighe

Give me leave to correct the expression of your metaphor, said Mr. Silton: It is not always rust which is acquired by the inactivity of the body on which it preys; such, perhaps, is the case with me, though indeed I was never cleared from my youth; but (taking it in its first stage) it is rather an encrustation, which nature has given for purposes of the greatest wisdom.

You are right, I returned; and sometimes, like some precious fossils, there may be hid under it gems of the purest brilliancy. for all kind of idiom & collocation
not but I, that a booby do you in
the Nay, further, continued Mr. Silton, there are two distinct sorts of what we call bashfulness; this, the awkwardness of a booby, which a few steps into the world will convert into the pertness of a coxcomb; that, a consciousness, which the most delicate feelings produce, and the most extensive knowledge cannot always remove. and on a no visor
y ironmod of it daily, & both alia
on and occulity of a coxcomb

From

From the incidents I have already related, I imagine it will be concluded, that Harley was of this last species of bashful animals ; at least, if Mr. Silton's principle is just, it may be argued on this side : for the second gradation of the first mentioned sort, it is certain, he never attained. Some part of his external appearance was modelled from the company of those gentlemen, whom the antiquity of a family, now possessed of bare 250*l.* a year, intitled its representative to approach ; these indeed were not many ; great part of the property in his neighbourhood being in the hands of merchants, who had made rich by their lawful calling abroad, and the sons of stewards, who had made rich by their lawful calling at home : persons so perfectly versant in the *etiquette* of thousands, tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands (whose degrees of precedence are plainly demonstrable from the first page of the compleat Accomptant, or Young Man's best Pocket Companion) that a bow at church from them to such a man as Harley,—would have made the parson look back into his sermon for some precept of Christian humility.

C H A P XII.

Of worldly interests.

THREE are certain interests which the world supposes every man to have, and which therefore are properly enough termed worldly ; but the world is apt to make an erroneous estimate : ignorant of the dispositions which constitute our happiness or misery, they bring to an undistinguished scale the means of the one, as connected with power, wealth, or grandeur, and of the other with their contraries. Philosophers and poets have often protested against this decision ; but their arguments have been despised as declamatory, or ridiculed as romantic.

There are never wanting to a young man some grave and prudent friends to set him right in this particular, if he need it : to watch his ideas as they rise, and point them to those objects which a wise man should never forget.

Harley did not want for some monitors of this sort. He was frequently told of men, whose fortunes enabled them to command all the luxuries of life, whose fortunes were of their own acquirement ; his

his envy was endeavoured to be excited by a description of their happiness, and his emulation by a recital of the means which had procured it.

Harley was too apt to hear these lectures with indifference; nay sometimes they got the better of his temper; and as the instances were not always amiable, provoked, on his part, some reflections, which I am persuaded his good nature would else have avoided.

Indeed I have observed one ingredient, somewhat necessary in a man's composition towards happiness, which people of feeling would do well to learn; a certain respect for the follies of mankind: for there are so many fools whom the opinion of the world entitles to regard, whom accident has placed in heights of which they are unworthy, that he who cannot restrain his contempt or indignation at the sight, will be too often quarrelling with the disposal of things, to relish that share which is allotted to himself. I do not mean, however, to insinuate this to have been the case with Harley; on the contrary, if we might rely on his own testimony, the conceptions he had of pomp and grandeur, served to en-

dear the state which Providence had assigned him.

He lost his father, the last surviving of his parents, as I have already related when he was a boy. The good man from a fear of offending, as well as a regard to his son, named him a variety of tutors ; one consequence of which was, that they seldom met to consider of their pupil's affairs at all ; and that when they did meet, their opinions were so opposite, that the only method of conciliation possible, was the mediatory power of a dinner and a bottle, which commonly interrupted, not ended, the dispute ; and after that interruption ceased, left the consulting parties in a condition not very proper for adjusting it. His education therefore had been but indifferently attended to ; and after being taken from a country school, at which he had been boarded, the young gentleman was suffered to be his own master in the subsequent branches of literature, with some assistance from the parson of the parish in languages and philosophy, and from the exciseman in arithmetic and book-keeping. One of his tutors indeed, who in his youth had been an inhabitant of the Temple, set him to read Coke upon Lyttleton ; a book which is very properly,

perly put into the hand of beginners in that science, as its simplicity is accommodated to their understandings, and its size to their inclination. He profited but little by the perusal ; but it was not without its use in the family : for his maiden aunt applied it commonly to the laudable purpose of pressing her rebellious linens to the folds she had allotted them.

There were particularly two means of increasing his fortune, which might have occurred to people of less foresight than those counsellors we have mentioned. One of those was the expectation of succeeding to an old lady, a distant relation of Harley's, who was known to be possessed of a very large sum in the stocks : but in this their hopes were disappointed ; for the young man was so untoward in his disposition, that, notwithstanding the instructions he daily received, his visits rather tended to alienate than gain the good will of his kinswoman. He sometimes looked grave when the old lady told the jokes of her youth ; he often refused to eat when she pressed him, and was seldom or never provided with candy or liquorice when she was seized with a fit of coughing : nay, he had

once the rudeness to fall asleep, while she was describing the composition and virtues of her favourite cholic water. In short, he accommodated himself so ill to her humour, that she died, and did not leave him a farthing.

The other method pointed out to him was, an endeavour to get a lease of some crown-lands, which lay contiguous to his little paternal estate. This, it was imagined, might be easily enough procured, as the crown did not draw so much rent as Harley could afford to give, with very considerable profit to himself; and the then lessee had rendered himself so obnoxious to the ministry, by the disposal of his vote at an election, that he could not expect a renewal. This, however, needed some interest with the great, which Harley or his father never possessed.

His neighbour, Mr. Walton, having heard of this affair, generously offered him his assistance to accomplish it. He told him, that though he had long been a stranger to courtiers, yet he believed, there were some of them who might pay regard to his recommendation; and that if he thought it worth the while to take a London journey upon the business he would furnish him with a letter of introduction

to

to a baronet of his acquaintance, who had a great deal to say with the first lord of the treasury.

When his friends heard of this offer they pressed him with the utmost earnestness to accept of it. They did not fail to enumerate the many advantages which a certain degree of spirit and assurance gives a man who would make a figure in the world: they repeated their instances of good fortune in others, ascribed them all to a happy forwardness of disposition; and made so copious a recital of the disadvantages which attend the opposite weakness, that a stranger, who had heard them, would have been led to imagine, that in the British code there was some disqualifying statute against any citizen who should be convicted of—modesty.

Harley, thought he had no great relish for the attempt, yet could not resist the torrent of motives that assaulted him; and as he needed but little preparation for his journey, a day, not very distant was fixed for his departure.

C H A P. XIII.

The Man of Feeling in love.

THE day before that on which he set out, he went to take leave of Mr. Walton.—We would conceal nothing; there was another person of the family to whom also the visit was intended, on whose account, perhaps, there were some tenderer feelings in the bosom of Harley, than his gratitude for the friendly notice of that gentleman (though he was seldom deficient in that virtue) could inspire. Mr. Walton had a daughter; and such a daughter! we will attempt some description of her by and by.

Harley's notions of the *kalon*, or beautiful, were not always to be defined, nor indeed such as the world would always assent to, though we could define them. A blush, a phrase of affability to an inferior, a tear at a moving tale, were to him like the Cestus of Cytherea, unequalled in conferring beauty. For all these Miss Walton was remarkable; but as these, like the above-mentioned Cestus, are perhaps still more powerful, when the female, wearing them is possessed of some degree of beauty, commonly so called;

so it happened, that, from this cause they had more than usual power in the person of that young lady.

She was now arrived at that period of life which takes or is supposed to take from the flippancy of girlhood those sprightlinesses which some good natured old maids oblige the world with at three-score. She had been ushered into life (as that word is used in the dialect of St. James's) at seventeen, her father being then in parliament, and living in London ; at seventeen, therefore, she had been an universal toast ; her health, now she was four and twenty, was only drank by those who knew her face at least. Her complexion was mellowed into a paleness, which certainly took from her beauty, but agreed, at least Harley used to say so, with the pensive softness of her mind. Her eyes were of that gentle hazel-colour which is rather mild than piercing ; and except when then they were lighted up by good-humour, which was frequently the case, were supposed by the fine gentlemen to want fire. Her air and manner were elegant in the highest degree, and were as sure of commanding respect, as their mistress was far from demanding it. Her voice was inexpressibly soft ; it was,

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according to that incomparable simile of Otway's,

—“ Like the shepherd's pipe upon the mountains,
“ When all his little flock's at feed before him.”

The effect it had upon Harley he himself used to talk of ridiculously enough, and ascribed powers to it, which few believed, and nobody cared for.

Her conversation was always cheerful, but rarely witty ; and without the smallest affectation of learning, had as much sentiment in it as would have puzzled a Turk, upon his principles of female materialism, to have accounted for. Her beneficence was unbounded; indeed the natural tenderness of her heart might have been argued, by the frigidity of a casuist, as detracting from her virtue in this respect; for her humanity was a feeling, not a principle : but minds like Harley's are not very apt to make this distinction, and generally give our virtue credit for all that benevolence which is instinctive in our nature.

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As her father had for some years retired to the country, Harley had frequent opportunities of seeing her. He looked on her for some time merely with that respect and admiration which her appearance seemed to demand, and the opinion of others conferred upon her: from this cause perhaps, and from that extreme sensibility which we have taken frequent notice of, Harley was remarkably silent in her presence. He heard her sentiments with peculiar attention, sometimes with looks very expressive of approbation; but seldom declared his opinion on the subject, much less made compliments to the lady on the justness of her remarks.

From this very reason it was, that Miss Walton frequently took more particular notice of him than of other visitors, who by the laws of precedence, were better entitled to it; it was a mode of politeness she had peculiarly studied, to bring to the fine of that equality, which is ever necessary for the ease of our guests, those whose sensibility had placed them below it.

Harley saw this; for though he was a child in the drama of the world, yet was it not altogether owing to a want of knowledge on his part; on the contrary, the most

most delicate consciousness of propriety often raised that blush which marred the performance of it: this raised his esteem something above what the most sanguine descriptions of her goodness had been able to do; for certain it is, that notwithstanding the laboured definitions which very wise men have given us of the inherent beauty of virtue, we are always inclined to think her handsomest when she condescends to smile upon ourselves.

It would be trite to observe the easy gradation from esteem to love: in the bosom of Harley there scarce needed a transition; for there were certain seasons when his ideas were flushed to a degree much above their common complexion. In times not credulous of inspiration, we should account for this from some natural cause; but we do not mean to account for it at all; it were sufficient to describe its effects; but they were sometimes so ludicrous, as might derogate from the dignity of the sensations which produced them to describe. They were treated, indeed, as such by most of Harley's sober friends, who often laughed very heartily at the awkward blunders of the real Harley, when the different faculties, which should have prevented them, were entirely occupied

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by the ideal. In some of these paroxysms of fancy, Miss Walton did not fail to be introduced ; and the picture which had been drawn amidst the surrounding objects of unnoticed levity, was now singled out to be viewed through the medium of romantic imagination : it was improved of course, and esteem was a word expressive of the feelings it excited.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIV.

He sets out on his journey.—The beggar and his dog.

HE had taken leave of his aunt on the eve of his intended departure; but the good lady's affection for her nephew interrupted her sleep, and early as it was next morning when Harley came down stairs to set out, he found her in the parlour with a tear on her cheek, and her caudle-cup in her hand. She knew enough of physic to prescribe against going abroad of a morning with an empty stomach. She gave her blessing with the draught; her instructions she had delivered the night before. They consisted mostly of negatives; for London in her idea, was so replete with temptations, that it needed the whole armour of her friendly cautions to repel their attacks.

Peter stood at the door. We have mentioned this faithful fellow formerly: Harley's father had taken him up an orphan, and saved him from being cast on the parish, and he had ever since remained in the service of him and of his son. Harley shook

shook him by the hand as he passed, smiling, as if he had said, "I will not weep." He sprung hastily into the chaise that waited for him : Peter folded up the step. "My dear master, said he, (shaking the solitary lock that hung on either side of his head) I have been told as how London is a sad place."—He was choaked with the thought, and his benediction could not be heard :—but it shall be heard, honest Peter!—where these tears will add to its energy.

In a few hours Harley reached the inn where he proposed breakfasting ; but the fulness of his heart would not suffer him to eat a morsel. He walked out on the road, and gaining a little height, stood gazing on that quarter he had left. He looked for his wonted prospect, his fields, his woods, and his hills ! they were lost on the distant clouds ! He penciled them on the clouds, and bade them farewell with a sigh !

He sat down on a large stone to take out a little pebble from his shoe, when he saw at some distance a beggar approaching him. He had on a loose sort of coat, mended with different-coloured rags, amongst which the blue and the rus-

feet were predominant. He had a short knotty stick in his hand, and on the top of it was stuck a ram's horn ; his knees (though he was no pilgrim) had worn the stuff of his breeches ; he wore no shoes, and his stockings had entirely lost that part of them which should have covered his feet and ankles : in his face, however, was the plump appearance of good-humour ; he walked at a good round pace, and a crook-legged dog trotted at his heels.

“ Our delicacies, said Harley to himself, are fantastic : they are not in nature ! that beggar walks over the sharpest of these stones barefooted, while I have lost the most delightful dream in the world, from the smallest of them happening to get into my shoe.”—The beggar had by this time come up, and pulling off a piece of hat, asked charity of Harley ; the dog began to beg too :—it was impossible to resist both ; and, in truth, the want of shoes and stockings had made both unnecessary, for Harley had destined sixpence for him before. The beggar, on receiving it, poured forth blessings without number, and, with a sort of smile on his countenance said to Harley, “ that if he wanted to have his fortune told”

told"—Harley turned his eye briskly on the beggar: it was an unpromising look for the subject of a Prediction, and silenced the prophet immediately. "I would much rather learn, said Harley, what it is in your power to tell me: your trade must be an entertaining one: sit down on this stone, and let me know something of your profession; I have often thought of turning fortune-teller for a week or two myself."

"Master, replied the beggar, I like your frankness much; God knows I had the humour of plain-dealing in me from a child: but there is no doing with it in this world; we must live as we can, and lying is, as you call it, my profession; but I was in some sort forced to the trade, for I dealt once in telling truth.

"I was a labourer, Sir, and gained as much as to make me live; I never laid by indeed; for I was reckoned a piece of a wag, and your wags, I take it, are seldom rich, Mr. Harley." "So, said Harley, you seem to know me." "Ay, there are few folks in the country that I don't know something of: how should I tell fortunes else?" "True, but to go on with your story: you were a labourer,

you say, and a wag; your industry, I suppose, you left with your old trade, but your humour you preserve to be of use to you in your new."

" What signifies sadness, Sir? a man grows lean on't: but I was brought to my idleness by degrees; first I could not work, and then it went against my stomach to work ever after. I was seized with a goal-fever at the time of the assizes being in the country where I lived; for I was always curious to get acquainted with the felons, because they are commonly fellows of much mirth and little thought, qualities I had ever an esteem for. In the height of this fever, Mr. Harley, the house where I lay took fire, and burnt to the ground: I was carried out in that condition, and lay all the rest of my illness in a barn. I got the better of my disease however, but I was so weak that I spit blood whenever I attempted to work. I had no relation living that I knew of, and I never kept a friend above a week, when I was able to joke; I seldom remained above six months in a parish, so that I might have died before I had found a settlement in any; so I was forced to beg for my bread, and a sorry trade I found it, Mr. Harley. I told all my misfortunes truly, but they were

were seldom believed ; and the few who gave me an halfpenny as they passed, did it with a shake of the head, and an injunction not to trouble them with a long story. In short, I found that people don't care to give alms without some security for their money ; a wooden leg or a withered arm is a sort of draught upon heaven for those who choose to have their money placed to account there ; so I changed my plan, and, instead of telling my own misfortunes, began to prophesy happiness to others. This I found by much the better way : folks will always listen when the tale is there own ; and of many who say they do not believe in fortune-telling, I have known few on whom it had not a very sensible effect. I pick up the names of their acquaintance ; amours and little squabbles are easily gleaned amongst the servants of great families ; and indeed people themselves are the best intelligen-
cers in the world for our purpose : they dare not puzzle us for their own sakes, for every one is anxious to hear something which they would wish to believe ; and they who repeat it to laugh at it when they have done, are generally more serious than their hearers are apt to imagine. With a tolerable good memory, and some share of cunning, with the help
of

of walking sometimes a nights over heaths and church-yards, with this, and shewing the tricks of that there dog, whom I stole from the serjeant of a marching regiment, (and by the way he can steal too upon occasion) I make shift to pick up a livelihood. My trade, indeed, is none of the honestest; yet people are not much cheated neither, who give a few halfpence for being made to expect happiness which I have heard some persons say is all a man can arrive at in this world.—But I must bid you good day, Sir; for I have three miles to walk before noon, to inform some boarding-school young ladies, whether their husbands are to be peers of the realm, or captains in the army: a question I promised to answer them by that time."

Harley had drawn a shilling from his pocket; but virtue bade him consider on whom he was going to bestow it.—Virtue held back his arm:—but a milder form, a younger sister of virtue's, not so severe as virtue, nor so serious as pity, smiled on him: His fingers lost their compression;—nor did virtue offer to catch the money as it fell. It had no sooner reached the ground than the watchful cur (a trick he had been taught) snapped it up.

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in his mouth; and contrary to the most approved method of stewardship, delivered it immediately into the hands of his master.

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C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

He makes a second expedition to the Baronet's. The laudable ambition of a young man to be thought something by the world.

WE have related, in a former chapter, the little success of his first visit to the great man, for whom he had the introductory letter from Mr. Walton. To people of equal sensibility, the influence of those trifles we mentioned on his deportment will not appear surprising; but to his friends in the country, they could not be stated, nor would they have allowed them any place in the account. In some of their letters, therefore, which he received soon after, they expressed their surprise at his not having been more urgent in his application, and again recommended the blushless assiduity of successful merit.

He resolved to make another attempt at the baronet's; fortified with higher notions of his own dignity, and with less apprehension of a repulse. In his way to Grosvenor-square he began to ruminate on the folly of mankind, who affixed those ideas of superiority to riches, which reduced the minds of men, by nature equal with the more fortunate, to that

sort

sort of servility which he felt in his own. By the time he had reached the Square, and was walking along the pavement which led to the baronet's, he had brought his reasoning on the subject to such a point, that the conclusion, by every rule of logic, should have led him to a thorough indifference in his approaches to a fellow-mortal, whether that fellow-mortal was possessed of six, or six thousand, pounds a year. It is probable, however, that the premises had been improperly formed; for it is certain, that when he approached the great man's door, he felt his heart agitated by an unusual pulsation.

He had almost reached it, when he observed a young gentleman coming out, dressed in a white frock, and a red-laced waistcoat, with a small switch in his hand, which he seemed to manage with a particular good grace. As he passed him on the steps, the stranger very politely made him a bow, which Harley returned, though he could not remember ever having seen him before. He asked him, in the same civil manner, if he was going to wait on his friend the Baronet? "For I am just calling, said he, and am sorry to find that he is gone for some days into the

the country." Harley thanked him for his information ; and was turning from the door, when the other observed, that it would be proper to leave his name, and very obligingly knocked for that purpose. "Here is a gentleman, Tom, who meant to have waited on your master." "Your name, if you please, Sir?" "Harley.—You'll remember, Tom, Harley."—The door was shut. "Since we are here, said he, we shall not lose our walk, if we add a little to it by a turn or two in Hyde-Park." He accompanied this proposal with a second bow, and Harley accepted it by another in return.

The conversation, as they walked, was brilliant on the side of his companion. The playhouse, the opera, with every occurrence in high-life, he seemed perfectly master of ; and talked of some reigning beauties of quality, in a manner the most feeling in the world. Harley admired the happiness of his vivacity ; and, though it was opposite to the reservedness of his own nature, he began to be much pleased with its effects.

Though I am not of opinion with some wise men, that the existence of objects depends on idea ; yet, I am convinced, that their

their appearance is not a little influenced by it. The optics of some minds are in so unlucky a perspective, as to throw a certain shade on every picture that is presented to them ; while those of others (of which number was Harley) like the mirrors of the ladies, have a wonderful effect in bettering their complexions. Through such a medium perhaps he was looking on his present companion.

When they had finished their walk, and were returning by the corner of the Park, they observed a board hung out of a window, signifying, "An excellent ORDINARY Saturdays and Sundays." It happened to be Saturday, and the table was covered for the purpose. "What if we should go in and dine here, if you happen not to be engaged, Sir ?" said the young gentleman. "It is not impossible but we shall meet with some original or other ; it is a sort of humour I like hugely." Harley made no objection ; and the stranger shewed him the way into the parlour.

He was placed, by the courtesy of his introducer, in an armed chair that stood at one side of the fire. Over against him was seated a man of a grave considering aspect, with that look of sober prudence

which indicates what is commonly called a warm man. He wore a pretty large wig, which had once been white, but was now of a brownish yellow ; his coat was one of those modest-coloured drabs which mock the injuries of dust and dirt ; two jack-boots concealed, in part, the well-mended knees of an old pair of buckskin-breeches, while the spotted handkerchief round his neck, preserved at once its owner from catching cold, and his neck-cloth from being dirtied. Next him sat another man, with a tankard in his hand, and a quid of tobacco in his cheek, whose eye was rather more vivacious, and whose dress was something smarter.

The first mentioned gentleman took notice, that the room had been so lately washed, as not to have had time to dry ; and remarked, that wet lodging was unwholesome for man or beast. He looked round at the same time for a poker to stir the fire with, which, he at last observed to the company, the people of the house had removed, in order to save their coals. This difficulty, however, he overcame by the help of Harley's stick, saying “ that as they should, no doubt, pay for their fire in some shape or other, he saw,

no

no reason why they should not have the use of it while they sat."

The door was now opened for the admission of dinner. "I don't know how it is with you, gentlemen," said Harley's new acquaintance, "but I am afraid I shall not be able to get down a morsel at this horrid mechanical hour of dining." He sat down, however, and did not shew any want of appetite by his eating. He took on him the carving of the meat, and criticising on the goodness of the pudding.

When the table-cloth was removed, he proposed calling for some punch, which was readily agreed to; he seemed at first inclined to make it himself, but afterwards changed his mind, and left that province to the waiter, telling him to have it pure West-Indian, or he could not taste a drop of it.

When the punch was brought, he undertook to fill the glasses and call the toasts.—"The king."—That toast naturally produced politics. It is the privilege of Englishmen to drink the king's health, and to talk of his conduct. The man who sat opposite to Harley (who by this time, partly from himself, and partly

from his acquaintance on his left hand, was discovered to be a grazier) observed, " That it was a shame for so many pensioners to be allowed to take the bread out of the mouth of the poor." " Ay, and provisions, said his friend, were never so dear in the memory of man; I wish the king, and his councillors, would look to that." " As for the matter of provisions, neighbour Wrightson, he replied, I am sure the prices of cattle—" A dispute would have probably ensued, but it was prevented by the spruce toast-master, who gave a Sentiment; and turning to the two politicians, " Come, gentlemen, said he, let us have done with these musty politics, pray now; I would always leave them to the beer-suckers in Butcher-Row. Come, let us have something of the fine arts. That was a damn'd hard match betwixt the Nailor and Tim Bucket. The knowing ones were cursedly in there! I lost a cool hundred myself, faith."

At mention of the cool hundred, the grazier threw his eyes a-slant, with a mingled look of doubt and surprise; while the man at at his elbow looked arch, and gave a short emphatical sort of cough.

Both

Both seemed to be silenced; however, by this intelligence; and, while the remainder of the punch lasted, the conversation was wholly engrossed by the gentleman with the fine waistcoat, who told a great many “immense comical stories,” and “confounded smart things,” as he termed them, acted and spoken by lords, ladies and young bucks of quality, of his acquaintance. At last, the grazier, pulling out a watch, of a very unusual size, and telling the hour, said, that, he had an appointment. “Is it so late? said the young gentleman; then I am afraid I have missed an appointment already: but the truth is, I am cursedly given to missing of appointments.

When the grazier and he were gone, Harley turned to the remaining man of the company, and asked him if he knew that young gentleman? “A gentleman! said he; ay, he is one of your gentlemen at the top of an affidavit. I knew him, some years ago, in the quality of a footman; and I, believe, he had sometimes the honour to be a pimp. At last, some of the great folks, to whom he had been serviceable in both capacities, had him made a gauger; in which station he still remains, and has the assurance to pretend

an acquaintance with men of quality. The impudent dog ! with a few shillings in his pocket, he will talk you three times as much as my friend Mundy there, who is worth nine thousand, if he's worth a farthing. But I know the rascal, and despise him, as he deserves."

Harley began to despise him too, and to conceive some indignation at having sat with patience to hear such a fellow speak nonsense. But he corrected himself, by reflecting, that he was perhaps as well entertained, and instructed too by this same modest gauger, as he should have been by such a man as he had thought proper to personate. And surely the fault may more properly be imputed to that rank where the futility is real, than where it is feigned ; to that rank, whose opportunities for nobler accomplishments have only served to rear a fabric of folly, which the untutored hand of affectation, even among the meanest of mankind, can imitate with success.

C H A P. XX.

He visits Bedlam.—The distresses of a daughter.

OF those things called Sights, in London, which it is supposed every stranger is desirous to see, Bedlam is one. To that place, therefore, an acquaintance of Harley's, after having accompanied him to several other shews, proposed a visit. Harley objected to it, "because, said he, I think it an inhuman practice to expose the greatest misery our nature is afflicted with to every idle visitant who can afford a trifling perquisite to the keeper; especially as it is a distress which the humane must see with the painful reflection, that it is not in their power to alleviate it." He was overpowered, however, by the solicitations of his friend, and the other persons of the party, (amongst whom were several ladies) and they went in a body to Moorfields.

Their conductor led them first to the dismal mansions of those who are in the most horrid state of incurable madness. The clanking of chains, the wildness of

their

their cries, and the imprecations which some of them uttered, formed a scene inexpressibly shocking. Harley and his companions, especially the female part of them, begged their guide to return: he seemed surprised at their uneasiness, and was with difficulty prevailed on to leave that part of the house without shewing them some others; who, as he expressed it in the phrase of those who keep wild beasts for a shew, were much more worth seeing than any they had passed, being ten times more fierce and unmanageable.

He led them next to that quarter where those reside, who, as they are not dangerous to themselves or others, enjoy a certain degree of freedom, according to the state of their distemper.

Harley had fallen behind his companions, looking at a man, who was making pendulums with bits of thread, and little balls of clay. He had delineated a segment of a circle on the wall with chalk, and marked their different vibrations, by intersecting it with cross lines. A decent-looking man came up, and smiling at the maniacs, turned to Harley, and told him, that gentleman had once been a very celebrated mathematician. "He fell a sacrifice,

fice, said he, to the theory of comets ; for, after having, with infinite labour, formed a table on the conjectures of Sir Isaac Newton, he was disappointed in the return of one of those luminaries, and was very soon after obliged to be placed here by his friends. If you please to follow me, Sir, continued the stranger, I believe I shall be able to give you a more satisfactory account of the unfortunate people you see here, than the man who attends your companions." Harley bowed, and accepted of his offer.

The next person they came up to had scrawled a variety of figures on a piece of slate. Harley had the curiosity to take a nearer view of them. They consisted of different columns, a-top of which were marked South Sea annuities, India stock, and Three per cent. annuities consol. " This," said Harley's instructor, was a gentleman well known in Change-Alley. He was once worth fifty thousand pounds, and had actually agreed for the purchase of an estate in the west, in order to realize his money ; but he quarrelled with the proprietor about the repairs of the garden wall, and so returned to town to follow his old trade of stock-jobbing a little longer ; when an unlucky fluctuation of stock, in which he was engaged to an immense extent,

extent, reduced him at once to poverty and to madness. Poor wretch! he told me t'other day, that against the next payment of differences, he should be some hundreds above a plum!"

" It is a spondee, and I will maintaith it," interrupted a voice on his left hand. This assertion was followed by a very rapid recital of some verses from Homer. " That figure, said the gentleman, whose cloths are so bedaubed with snuff, was a schoolmaster of reputation: he came here to be resolved of some doubts he enter-tained concerning the genuine pronunciation of the Greek vowels. In his highest fits, he makes frequent mention of one Mr. Bently.

" But delusive ideas, Sir, are the mo-tive of the greatest part of mankind, and a heated imagination the power by which their actions are incited: the world, in the eye of a philosopher, may be said to be a large mad houle." " It is true, an-swered Harley, the passions of men are temporary madnesses; and sometimes ver-y fatal in their effects.

From Macedonia's madman to the Swede."

" It

" It was indeed, said the stranger, a very mad thing in Charles, to think of adding so vast a country as Russia to his dominions ; that would have been fatal indeed ; the balance of the North would then have been lost ; but the Sultan and I would never have allowed it."—" Sir !" said Harley, with no small surprize on his countenance. " Why yes, answered the other, the Sultan and I, do you know me ? I am the Chan of Tartary."

Harley was a good deal struck by this discovery ; he had prudence enough, however, to conceal his amazement, and bowing as low to the monarch, as his dignity required, left him immediately, and joined his companions.

He found them in a quarter of the house set apart for the insane of the other sex, several of whom had gathered about the female part of the company, and were examining, with rather more accuracy than might have been expected, the particulars of their dress.

Separate from the rest stood one, whose appearance had something of superior dignity. Her face, though pale and wasted, was less squalid than those of the others,

others, and shewed a dejection of that decent kind, which moves our pity unmixed with horror: upon her, therefore, the eye of all were immediately turned. The keeper, who accompanied them, observed it: "This, said he, is a young lady, who was born to ride in her coach and six. She was beloved, if the story I have heard is true, by a young gentleman, her equal in birth, but by no means her match as to fortune: but Love, they say, is blind, and so she fancied him as much as he did her. Her father, it seems, would not hear of their marriage, and threatened to turn her out of doors, if ever she saw him again. Upon this the young gentleman took a voyage to the West-Indies, in hopes of bettering his fortune, and obtaining his mistress; but he was scarcely landed, when he was seized with one of the fevers which are common in those islands, and died in a few days, lamented by every one that knew him. This news soon reached his mistress, who was at the same time pressed by her father to marry a rich miserly fellow, who was old enough to be her grandfather. The death of her lover had no effect on her inhuman parent; he was only the more earnest for her marriage with the man he had provided for her; and what between her despair at the death

death of the one, and her aversion to the other, the poor young lady was reduced to the condition you see her in. But God would not prosper such cruelty ; and soon after her father's affairs went to wreck, and he died almost a beggar."

Though this story was told in very plain language, it had particularly attracted Harley's notice : he had given it the tribute of some tears. The unfortunate young lady had till now seemed intranced in thought, with her eyes fixed on a little garnet ring she wore on her finger : she turned them now upon Harley. " My Billy is no more ! said she, do you weep for my Billy ? Blessings on your tears ! I would weep too, but my brain is dry ; and it burns, it burns, it burns ! "—She drew nearer to Harley.—" Be comforted, young Lady, said he, your Billy is in heaven." " Is he indeed ? and shall we meet again ? and shall that frightful man (pointing to the keeper) not be there ?—Alas ! I am grown naughty of late ; I have almost forgotten to think of heaven : yet I pray sometimes ; when I can I pray ; and sometimes I sing ; when I am saddest I sing :—You shall hear me, I ush !

“ Light be the earth on Billy’s breast,
And green the sod that wraps his grave !”

There was a plaintive wildness in the air, not to be withstood ; and except the keeper’s, there was not an unmoistered eye round her.

“ Do you weep again ? said she ; I would not have you weep ; just so he looked when he gave me this ring ; poor Billy ! it was the last time ever we met ! —

“ It was when the seas were roaring—I love you for resembling my Billy ; but I shall never love any man like him.”—She stretched out her hand to Harley ; he pressed it between both of his, and bathed it with his tears.—“ Nay, that is Billy’s ring, said she, you cannot have it indeed ; but here is another, look here, which I plaited to-day of some gold thread from this bit of stuff ; will you keep it for my sake ? I am a strange girl ;—but my heart is harmless : my poor heart ! it will burst some day ; feel how it beats.”—She pressed his hand to her bosom, then holding her head in the attitude of listening—“ Hark ! one, two, three ! be quiet thou little trembler ; my Billy is cold ! but I had forgotten the ring.”

She

She put it on his finger.—“ Farewell ! I must leave you now.”—She would have withdrawn her hand ; Harley held it to his lips.—“ I dare not stay longer ; my head throbs sadly : farewell !”—She walked with a hurried step to a little apartment at some distance. Harley stood fixed in astonishment and pity ! his friend gave money to the keeper.—Harley looked on his ring.—He put a couple of guineas into the man’s hand : “ Be kind to that unfortunate.”—He burst into tears, and left them.

C H A P. XXI.

The Misanthrope.

THE friend, who had conducted him to Moorfields, called on him again the next evening. After some talk on the adventure of the preceding day; "I carried you yesterday, said he to Harley, to visit the mad; let me introduce you to-night, at supper, to one of the wise: but you must not look for any thing of the Socratic pleasantry about him; on the contrary, I warn you, to expect the spirit of a Diogenes. That you may be somewhat prepared for his extraordinary manner, I will let you into some particulars of his history.

" He is the eldest of two sons of a gentleman of considerable estate in the country. Their father died when they were young: both were remarkable at school for quickness of parts, and extent of genius: this one had been bred to no profession, because his father's fortune, which descended to him, was thought sufficient to set him above it; the other was put apprentice to an eminent attorney. In this the expectations of his friends were more

more consulted than his own inclination ; for both his brother and he had feelings of that warm kind, that could ill brook a study so dry as the law, especially in that department of it which was allotted to him. But the difference of their tempers made the characteristical distinction between them. The younger, from the gentleness of his nature, bore with patience a situation entirely discordant to his genius and disposition. At times, indeed, his pride would suggest, of how little importance those talents were, which the partiality of his friends had often extolled : they were now incumbrances in a walk of life where the dull and the ignorant passed him at every turn ; his fancy and his feeling, were invincible obstacles to eminence in a situation, where his fancy had no room for exertion, and his feeling experienced perpetual disgust. But these murmurings he never suffered to be heard ; and that he might not offend the prudence of those who had been concerned in the choice of his profession, he continued to labour in it for several years, till by the death of a relation, he fell into an estate of little better than 100*l.* a year, with which, and the small patrimony left him by his father, he retired into the country, and made a

love-match with a young lady of a temper similar to his own.

“ But his elder brother, whom you are to see at supper, if you will do us the favour of your company, was naturally impetuous, decisive, and overbearing. He entered into life with those ardent expectations which young men are commonly deluded by: in his friendships, warm to excess; and equally violent in his dislikes. He was on the brink of marriage with a young lady, when one of those friends, for whose honour he would have pawned his life, made an elopement with this very goddess, and left him besides deeply engaged for sums which his extravagance had squandered.

“ The dreams he had formerly enjoyed were now changed for ideas of a very different nature. He adjured all confidence in any thing of human form; sold his lands in the country, which still produced him a very large reversion, came to town, and immured himself with a woman who had been his nurse, in little better than a garret; and has ever since applied his talents to the perpetual villifying his species. One thing I must take the liberty to instruct you in; however

ever different your sentiments may be (and different they must be) you will suffer him to go on without contradiction ; otherwise he will be silent immediately, and we shall not be able to get a word from him all the night after." Harley promised to remember this injunction, and accepted the invitation of his friend.

When they arrived at the house, they were informed that the gentleman was already come, and had been shewn into the parlour. They found him sitting with a daughter of his friend's, about three years old on his knee, whom he was teaching the alphabet from a horn-book : at a little distance stood a sister of hers, some years older. "Get you away, Miss, said he to this last, you are a pert gossip, and I will have nothing to do with you." "Nay, answered she, Nancy is your favourite ; you are quite in love with Nancy." "Take away that girl, said he to her father, whom he now observed to have entered the room, she has woman about her already." The children were accordingly dismissed.

Betwixt that and supper-time he did not utter a syllable. When supper came, he

he quarrelled with every dish at table, but eat of them all ; only exempting from his censures a fassad, which you have not spoiled, said he, because you have not attempted to cook it.

When the wine was set upon the table he took from his pocket a particular smoking apparatus, and filled up his pipe, without taking any more notice of Harley, or his friend, than if no such people had been in the room.

Harley could not help stealing a look of surprize at him ; but his friend, who knew his humour, returned it, by annihilating his presence in the like manner, and, leaving him on his own meditations, addressed himself entirely to Harley.

In their discourse some mention happened to be made of an amiable character, and the words *honour* and *politeness* were applied to it. Upon this the gentleman, laying down his pipe, and changing the tone of his countenance, from an ironical grin to something more intently contemptuous : Honour, said he, Honour and Politeness ! this is the coin of the world, and passes current with the fools of it. You have substituted the shadow Honour, instead of the substance

substance Virtue; and have banished the reality of friendship for the fictitious semblance of what you have termed Politeness: politeness, which consists in a certain ceremonious jargon, more ridiculous to the ear of reason than the voice of a puppet. You have inverted sounds, which you worship, though they tyrannize over your peace; and are surrounded with empty forms, which take from the honest emotions of joy, and add to the poignancy of misfortune."—"Sir,"—said Harley—His friend winked to him, to remind him of the caution he had received. He was silenced by the thought.—The philosopher turned his eye upon him: he examined him from top to toe, with a sort of triumphant contempt. Harley's coat happened to be a new one; the other's was as shabby as could possibly be supposed to be on the back of a gentleman: there was much significance in his look with regard to this coat: it spoke of the sleekness of folly, and the threadbareness of wisdom.

" Truth, continued he, the most amiable, as well as the most natural of virtues, you are at pains to eradicate. Your very nurseries are seminaries of falsehood; and what is called Fashion in manhood completes the system of avowed insincerity.

rity. Mankind, in the gross, is a gaping monster, that loves to be deceived, and has seldom been disappointed: nor is their vanity less fallacious to your philosophers, who adopt modes of truth to follow them through the paths of error, and defend paradoxes merely to be singular in defending them. These are they whom ye term *Ingenious*; it is a phrase of commendation I detest; it implies an attempt to impose on my judgment, by flattering my imagination: yet these are they whose works are read by the old with delight, which the young are taught to look on as the codes of knowledge and philosophy.

“Indeed, the education of your youth is every way preposterous: you waste at school years in improving talents, without having ever spent an hour in discovering them; one promiscuous line of instruction is followed, without regard to genius, capacity, or probable situation in the commonwealth. From this *menagerie* of the pedagogue, a raw unprincipled boy is turned loose upon the world to travel; without any ideas but those of improving his dress at Paris or starting into taste by gazing on some paintings at Rome. Ask him of the manners of the people, and he

he will tell you, That the skirt is worn much shorter in France, and that every body eats macaroni in Italy. When he returns home, he buys a seat in parliament, and studies the constitution at Arthur's.

“ Nor are your females trained to any more useful purpose; they are taught, by the very rewards which their nurses propose for good behaviour, by the first thing like a jest which they hear from every male visitor of the family, that a young woman is a creature to be married; and when they are grown somewhat older, are instructed, that it is the purpose of marriage to have the enjoyment of pin-money, and the expectation of a jointure.”

* “ These indeed, are the effects of luxury, which is perhaps inseparable from a certain degree of power and grandeur in a nation. But it is not simply the progress

* Though the Curate could not remember having shewn this chapter to any body, yet I strongly suspect that these political observations are the work of a later pen than the rest of this performance. There seems to have been, by some accident, a *biatus* in the manuscript, from these words, “ Expectation

gress of luxury, we have to complain of: did its votaries keep in their own sphere of thoughtless dissipation, we might despise them without emotion; but the frivolous pursuits of pleasure are mingled with the most important concerns of the state; and public enterprize shall sleep till he who should guide its operation has decided his bets at Newmarket, or fulfilled his engagement with a favourite mistress in the country. We want some man of acknowledged eminence to point our councils with that firmness which the councils of a great people require. We have hundreds of ministers, who press forward into office, without having ever learned that art which is necessary for every business, the art of thinking; and mistake the petulance, which could give inspiration to some smart sarcasms on an obnoxious measure in a popular assembly, for the ability which is to balance the interests of kingdoms, and investigate the latent sources of national superiority.

With

peculation of a jointure," to these. "In short, man is a selfish animal," where the present blank ends; and some other person (for the hand is different, and the ink whiter) has filled up part of it with some sentiments of his own. Whoever he was, he seems to have caught some portion of the snarling spirit of the man he personates.

With the administration of such men the people can never be satisfied ; for besides that their confidence is gained only by the view of superior talents, it needs that depth of knowledge, which is not only acquainted with the just extent of power, but can also trace its connection with the expedient, to preserve its possessors from the contempt which attends irresolution, or the resentment which follows temerity."

* * * * *

[Here a considerable part is wanting.]

* * * " In short, man is an animal equally selfish and vain. Vanity, indeed, is but a modification of selfishness. From the last, there are some who pretend to be free : they are generally such as declaim against the lust of wealth and power, because they have never been able to attain any high degree in either : they boast of generosity and feeling. They tell us (perhaps they tell us in rhyme) that the sensations of an honest heart, of a mind universally benevolent, is the quiet bliss which they enjoy ; but they will not, by this, be exempted from the charge of selfishness. Whence the luxurious happiness

they describe in their little family circles? Whence the pleasure which they feel, when they trim their evening fires, and listen to the howling of the winter's wind? whence, but from the secret reflection of what houseless wretches feel from it? Or do you administer comfort in affliction—the motive is at hand; I have had it preached to me in nineteen out of twenty of your consolatory discourses—the comparative littleness of our own misfortunes.

“ With vanity your best virtues are grossly tainted: your benevolence, which ye deduce immediately from the natural impulse of the heart, squints to it for its reward. There are some, indeed, who tell us of that satisfaction which flows from a secret consciousness of good actions: this secret satisfaction is indeed excellent—when we have some friend to whom we may discover its excellence.”

He now paused a moment to relight his pipe, when a clock, that stood at his back, struck eleven; he started up at the sound, took his hat and his cane, and nodding good-night with his head, walked out of the room. The gentleman of the house called a servant to bring him his furtout.

“ What

" What sort of a night is it, fellow ?" said he. " It rains, Sir, answered the servant, with an *easterly* wind."—" Easterly for ever !"—He made no other reply ; but shrugging up his shoulders till they almost touched his ears, wrapped himself tight in his great-coat, and disappeared.

" This is a strange creature," said his friend to Harley. " I cannot say, answered he, that his remarks are of the pleasantest kind : it is curious to observe how the nature of truth may be changed by the garb it wears ; softened to the admonition of friendship, or soured into the severity of reproof : yet this severity may be useful to some tempers ; it somewhat resembles a file ; disagreeable in its operation, but hard metals may be the brighter for it.

* * * * *

C H A P. XXV.

His skill in physiognomy.

THE company at the baronet's removed to the playhouse accordingly, and Harley took his usual route into the Park. He observed, as he entered, a fresh looking elderly gentleman in conversation with a beggar, who, leaning on his crutch, was recounting the hardships he had undergone, and explaining the wretchedness of his present condition. This was a very interesting *tete-a-tete* to Harley ; he was rude enough therefore to slacken his pace as he approached, and at last to make a full stop at the gentleman's back, who was just then expressing his compassion for the beggar, and regretting that he had not a farthing of change about him. At saying this he looked piteously on the fellow : there was something in his physiognomy which catched Harley's notice : indeed physiognomy was one of Harley's foibles, for which he had often been rebuked by his aunt in the country : who used to tell him, that when he was come to her years and experience, he would know that all's not gold that glisters : and it must be owned, that his aunt was a very sensible

ble, harsh-looking, maiden lady of three-score and upwards. But he was too apt to forget this caution ; and now, it seems, it had not occurred to him : stepping up, therefore, to the gentleman, who was lamenting the want of silver, " Your intentions, Sir, said he, are so good, that I cannot help lending you my assistance to carry them into execution," and gave the beggar a shilling. The other returned a suitable compliment, and extolled the benevolence of Harley. They kept walking together, and benevolence grew the topic of discourse.

The stranger was fluent on the subject. " There is no use of money, said he, equal to that of beneficence : with the profuse, it is lost ; and even with those who lay it out according to the prudence of the world, the objects acquired by it pall on the sense, and have scarce become our own till they lose their value with the power of pleasing ; but here the enjoyment grows on reflection, and our money is most truly ours, when it ceases being in our possession."

" Yet I agree in some measure, answered Harley, with those who think, that charity to our common beggars

is often misplaced: there are objects less obtrusive whose title is a better one."

" We cannot easily distinguish, said the stranger; and even of the worthless, are there not many whose impudence, or whose vice, may have been one dreadful consequence of misfortune?"

Harley looked again in his face, and blessed himself for his skill in physiognomy.

By this time they had reached the end of the walk; the old gentleman leaned on the rails to take breath, and in the mean time they were joined by a younger man, whose figure was much above the appearance of his dress, which was poor and shabby: Harley's former companion addressed him as an acquaintance, and they turned on the walk together.

The oldest of the strangers complained of the coolness of the evening, and asked the other, if he would go with him into a house hard by, and take one draught of excellent cyder. " The man who keeps this house, said he, to Harley, was once a

fervant

fervant of mine: I could not think of turning loose upon the world a faithful old fellow, for no other reason but that his age had incapacitated him; so I give him an annuity of ten pounds, with the help of which he has set up this little place here, and his daughter goes and sells milk in the city, while her father manages his tap-room, as he calls it, at home. I can't well ask a gentleman of your appearance to accompany me to so paltry a place."—"Sir, replied Harley, interrupting him, I would much rather enter it than the most celebrated tavern in town: to give to the necessitous, may sometimes be a weakness in the man; to encourage industry, is a duty in the citizen." They entered the house accordingly.

On a table, at the corner of the room, lay a pack of cards, loosely thrown together. The old gentleman reproved the man of the house for encouraging so idle an amusement: Harley attempted to defend him from the necessity of accommodating himself to the humour of his guests, and taking up the cards began to shuffle them backwards and forwards in his hand. "Nay, I don't think cards so unpardonable an amusement as some do, replied the

the other ; and sometimes, about this time of the evening, when my eyes begin to fail me for my book, I divert myself with a game at piquet, without finding my morals a bit relaxed by it. Do you play piquet, Sir ?" (to Harley) Harley answered in the affirmative ; and the other proposed playing a pool at a shilling the game, doubling the stakes : adding, that he never played higher with any body.

Harley's good-nature could not refuse this to the benevolent old man ; and the younger stranger, though he at first pleaded a prior engagement, yet being earnestly solicited by his friend, at last agreed to it.

When they began to play, the old gentleman, somewhat to the surprise of Harley, produced ten shillings to serve for markers of his score. " He had no change for the beggar, said Harley to himself ; but I can easily account for it : it is curious to observe the affection that inanimate things will acquire from us by a long acquaintance : if I may judge from my own feelings, the old man would not part with one of these counters for ten times its intrinsic value ; it even got the better of his benevolence ! I myself have

a pair

a pair of old brass sleeve buttons—Here he was interrupted by being told, that the old gentleman had beat the younger, and that it was his turn to take up the conqueror. “Your game has been short,” said Harley. “I repiqued him,” answered the old man, with joy sparkling in his countenance.” Harley wished to be repiqued too, but he was disappointed; for he had the same good fortune against his opponent. Indeed, never did fortune, mutable as she is, delight in mutability so much as at that moment: the victory was so quick, and so constantly alternate, that the stake, in a short time, amounted to no less a sum than 12*l.* Harley’s proportion of which was within half a guinea of the money he had in his pocket. He had before proposed a division, but the old gentleman opposed it with such a pleasant warmth in his manner, that it was always over-ruled. Now, however, he told them, that he had an appointment with some gentlemen, and it was within a few minutes of his hour. The young stranger had gained one game, and was engaged in the second with the other: they agreed therefore that the stake should be divided, if the old gentleman won that; which was more than probable, as his score was 90 to 35, and he was eldest hand; but a mo-

momentous repique decided it in favour of his adversary, who seemed to enjoy his victory mingled with regret, for having won too much, while his friend, with great ebullience of passion, many praises of his own good play, and many maledictions on the power of chance, took up the cards, and threw them into the fire.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVI

The Man of Feeling in a brothel.

THE company he was engaged to meet were assembled in Fleet-street. He had walked for some time along the Strand, amidst the crowd of those wretches who wait the uncertain wages of prostitution, with ideas of pity suitable to the scene around him, and the feelings he possessed, and had got as far as Somerset-house, when one of them laid hold of his arm, and, with a voice tremulous and faint, asked him for a pint of wine, in a manner more supplicatory than is usual with those whom the infamy of their profession has deprived of shame: he turned round at the demand, and looked steadfastly on the person who made it.

She was taller than the common size, and elegantly formed; her face was thin and hollow, and shewed the remains of tarnished beauty. Her eyes were black, but had little of their lustre left: her cheeks had some paint on them, laid on without art, and productive of no advantage to her complexion, which exhibited
on

on the other parts of her face a deadly paleness.

Harley stood in the attitude of hesitation ; which she interpreting to her advantage, again repeated her request, and endeavoured to force a leer of invitation into her countenance. He took her arm, and they walked on to one of those obsequious taverns in the neighbourhood, where the dearness of the wine is a discharge in full for the character of the house. From what impulse he did this, we do not mean to inquire ; as it has ever been against our nature to search for motives where bad ones are to be found. — They entered, and a waiter shewed them a room, and placed a bottle of claret on the table.

Harley filled the lady's glass ; which she had no sooner tasted, than dropping it on the floor, and eagerly catching his arm, her eye grew fixed, her lip assumed a clayey whiteness, and she fell back lifeless in her chair.

Harley started from his seat, and catching her in his arms, supported her from falling to the ground, looking wildly at the door, as if he wanted to run for assistance,

ance, but durst not leave the miserable creature alone. It was not till some minutes after, that it occurred to him to ring the bell, which at last however he thought of, and rung with repeated violence even after the waiter appeared. Luckily the waiter had his senses somewhat more about him ; and snatching up a bottle of water, which stood on a beaufet at the end of the room, he sprinkled it on the hands and face of the dying figure before him. She began to revive, and with the assistance of some harishorn drops, which Harley now for the first time drew from his pocket, was able to desire the waiter to bring her a crust of bread ; and when it was brought, she swallowed some mouthfuls of it with the appearance of the keenest hunger. The waiter withdrew : when turning to Harley, sobbing at the same time, and shedding tears, “ I am sorry, Sir, said she, that I should have given you so much trouble ; but you will pity me when I tell you, that till now I have not tasted a morsel these two days past.”— He fixed his eyes on her’s—every circumstance but the last was forgotten ; and he took her hand with as much respect as if she had been a duchess. It was ever the privilege of misfortune to be revered by him.—“ Two days ! said he ; and I have

fared sumptuously every day!—He was reaching to the bell; she understood his meaning, and prevented him. “ I beg, Sir, said she, that you would give yourself no more trouble about a wretch who does not wish to live; but, at present, I could not eat a bit; my stomach even rose at the last mouthful of that crust.” He offered to call a chair, saying, that he hoped a little rest would relieve her.—He had one half guinea left; “ I am sorry, he said, that at present I should be able to make you an offer of no more than this paltry sum.” She burst into tears! “ Your generosity, Sir, is abused; to bestow it on me is to take it from the virtuous: I have no title but misery to plead; misery of my own procuring.” “ No more of that, answered Harley; there is virtue in these tears; let the fruit of them be virtue.”—He rung, and ordered a chair.—“ Though I am the vilest of beings, said she, I have not forgotten every virtue; gratitude, I hope, I shall still have left, did I but know who this benefactor is.”—“ My name is Harley”—“ Could I ever have an opportunity”—“ You shall, and a glorious one too! your future conduct—but I do not mean to reproach you—if, I say—it will be the noblest reward—I will do myself the pleasure of seeing you

you again."—Here the waiter entered, and told them the chair was at the door ; the lady informed Harley of her lodgings, and he promised to wait on her at ten next morning.

He led her to the chair, and returned to clear with the waiter, without ever once reflecting that he had no money in his pocket. He was ashamed to make an excuse ; yet an excuse must be made : he was beginning to frame one, when the waiter cut him short, by telling him, that he could not run scores ; but that if he would leave his watch, or any other pledge, it would be as safe as if it lay in his pocket. Harley jumped at the proposal, and pulling out his watch, delivered it into his hands immediately ; and having, for once, had the precaution to take a note of the lodging he intended to visit next morning, sallied forth with a flush of triumph on his face, without taking notice of the sneer of the waiter, who twirling the watch in his hand, made him a profound bow at the door, and whispered to a girl, who stood in the passage, something, in which the word CULLY was honoured with a particular emphasis.

C H A P. XXVII.

His skill in physiognomy is doubted.

AFTER he had been some time amongst the company with whom he had appointed to meet, and the last bottle was called for, he first recollect ed that he should be again at a loss how to discharge his share of the reckoning. He applied therefore to one of them, with whom he was most intimate, acknowledging that he had not a farthing of money about him; and, upon being jocularly asked the reason, acquainted them with the two adventures we have just now related. One of the company asked him, if the old man in Hyde-Park did not wear a brownish coat with a narrow gold edging, and his companion an old green frock, with a buff-coloured waistcoat. Upon Harley's recollecting that they did; "Then, said he, you may be thankful you have comè off so well; they are two as noted sharpers, in their way, as any in town, and but t'other night took me in for a much larger sum: I had some thoughts of applying to a justice, but one does not like to be seen in these matters."

Harley

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Harley answered, " That he could not but fancy the gentleman was mistaken, as he never saw a face promise more honesty than the old man's he had met with." — " His face!" said a grave-looking man, who sat opposite to him, squirting the juice of his tobacco obliquely into the grate. There was something very emphatical in the action; for it was followed by a burst of laughter round the table. " Gentlemen, said Harley, you are disposed to be merry: it may be as you imagine, for I confess myself ignorant of the town: but there is one thing which makes me bear the loss of my money with temper; the young fellow who won it was certainly miserably poor; I observed him borrow money for the stake from his friend; he had distress and hunger in his countenance: be his character what it may, his necessities at least may plead for him." — At this there was a louder laugh than before. " Gentlemen, said the lawyer, one of whose conversations with Harley we have already recorded, here's a very pretty fellow for you: to have heard him talk some nights ago, as I did, you might have sworn he was a saint; yet now he games with sharpers, and loses

his money ; and is bubbled by a fine story invented by a whore, and pawns his watch ; here are sanctified doings with a witness ! ”

“ Young gentleman, said his friend on the other side of the table, let me advise you to be a little more cautious for the future ; and as for faces—you may look into them to know, whether a man’s nose be a long or a short one.”

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVIII.

He keeps his appointment.

THE last night's raillery of his companions was recalled to his remembrance when he awoke, and the colder homilies of prudence began to suggest some things which were nowise favourable for a performance of his promise to the unfortunate female he had met with before. He rose uncertain of his purpose; but the torpor of such considerations was seldom prevalent over the warmth of his nature. He walked some turns backwards and forwards in his room; he recalled the languid form of the fainting wretch to his mind: he wept at the recollection of her tears. "Though I am the vilest of beings, I have not forgotten every virtue; gratitude I hope, I shall still have left."—He took a larger stride—"Powers of mercy that surround me! cry'd he, do ye not smile upon deeds like these? to calculate the chances of deception is too tedious a business for the life of man!"—The clock struck ten!—When he was got down stairs, he found that he had forgot the note of her lodgings;

ings ; he gnawed his lips at the delay : he was fairly on the pavement, when he recollect ed having left his purse ; he did but just prevent himself from articulating an imprecation. He rushed a second time up into his chamber. " What a wretch I am," said he ; ere this time perhaps——" It was a perhaps not to be borne : — two vibrations of a pendulum would have served him to lock his bureau ; — but they could not be spared.

When he reached the house, and inquired for Miss Atkins, for that was the lady's name, he was shewn up three pair of stairs into a small room lighted by one narrow lattice, and patched round with shreds of different coloured paper. In the darkest corner stood something like a bed, before which a tattered coverlet hung by way of curtain. He had not waited long when she appeared. Her face had the glister of new-washed tears on it. " I am ashamed, Sir, said she, that you would have taken this fresh piece of trouble about one so little worthy of it ; but to the humane, I know there is a pleasure in goodness for its own sake : if you have patience for the recital of my story, it may palliate, though it

it cannot excuse, my faults." Harley bowed, as a sign of assent; and she began as follows:

"I am the daughter of an officer, whom a service of forty years had advanced no higher than to the rank of captain. I have had hints from himself, and been informed by others, that it was in some measure owing to those principles of rigid honour, which it was his boast to possess, and which he early inculcated on me, that he had been able to arrive at no better station. My mother died when I was a child; old enough to grieve for her death, but incapable of remembering her precepts or advice. Though my father was doatingly fond of her, yet there were some sentiments in which the materially differed: She had been bred from her infancy in the strictest principles of religion, and took the morality of her conduct from the motives which an adherence to these principles suggested. My father, who had been in the army from his youth, affixed an idea of pusillanimity to that virtue, which was formed by the doctrines excited by the rewards, or guarded by the terrors of revelation; his darling idol was the honour of a soldier; a term which he held in such reverence, that

that he commonly used it for his most sacred asseveration. When my mother died, I was for some time suffered to continue in those sentiments which her instructions had produced ; but soon after, though from respect to her memory, my father did not absolutely ridicule them, yet he shewed, in his discourse to others, so little regard to them, and, at times suggested to me motives of action so different, that I was soon weaned from opinions, which I began to look on as the dreams of superstition, or the artful inventions of designing hypocrisy. My mother's books were left behind at the different quarters we removed to, and my reading was principally confined to plays, novels, and those poetical descriptions of the beauty of virtue and honour, which the circulating libraries easily afforded.

“ As I was generally reckoned handsome, and the quickness of my parts extolled by all our visitors, my father had a pride in shewing me to the world. I was young, giddy, open to adulation, and vain of those talents which acquired it.

“ After the last war, my father was reduced to half-pay ; with which we retired to

to a village in the country, which the acquaintance of some genteel families who resided in it, and the cheapness of living, particularly recommended. My father rented a small house, with a piece of ground sufficient to keep a horse for him, and a cow for the benefit of his family. An old man-servant managed his ground; while a maid, who had formerly been my mother's, and had since been mine, undertook the care of our little dairy: they were assisted in each of their provinces by my father and me; and we passed our time in a state of tranquillity, which he had always talked of with delight, and my train of reading had taught me to admire.

“ Though I had never seen the polite circles of the metropolis, the company my father had introduced me into had given me a degree of good-breeding, which soon discovered a superiority over the young ladies of our village. I was quoted as an example of politeness, and my company courted by most of the considerable families in the neighbourhood.

“ Amongst the houses where I was frequently invited, was Sir George Wimbrook's. He had two daughters nearly

of

of my age, with whom, though they had been bred up in those maxims of vulgar doctrine, which my superior understanding could not but despise, yet as their good nature led them to an imitation of my manners in every thing else, I cultivated a particular friendship.

“ Some months after our first acquaintance, Sir George’s eldest son came home from his travels. His figure, his address, and conversation, were not unlike those warm ideas of an accomplished man which my favourite novels had taught me to form ; and his sentiments, on the article of religion, were as liberal as my own : when any of these happened to be the topic of our discourse, I, who before had been silent, from a fear of being single in opposition, now kindled at the fire he raised, and defended our mutual opinions with all the eloquence I was mistress of. He was commonly respectfully attentive all the while ; and when I had ended, would raise his eyes from the ground, look at me with a gaze of admiration, and express his applause in the highest strain of encomium. This was an incense the more pleasing, as I seldom or never had met with it before ; for the young gentlemen who visited Sir George were for

for the most part of that athletic order, the pleasure of whose lives is derived from fox-hunting: these are seldom solicitous to please the women at all; or if they were, would never think of applying their flattery to the mind.

“ Mr. Winbrooke observed the weakness of my soul, and took every occasion of improving the esteem he had gained. He asked my opinion of every author, of every sentiment, with that submissive diffidence, which shewed an unlimited confidence, in my understanding. I saw myself revered, as a superior sort of being, by one whose judgment my vanity told me was not likely to err; preferred by him to all the other visitors of my sex, whose superior fortunes and rank should have entitled them to a much higher degree of notice, I saw their little jealousies at the distinguished attention he paid me; it was gratitude, it was pride, it was love! Love which had made too fatal a progress in my heart, before any declaration on his part should have warranted a return: but I interpreted every look of attention, every expression of compliment, to the passion I imagined him inspired with, and imputed to his sensibility that silence which was the effect of art and design.

At length, however, he took an opportunity of declaring his love: he now expressed himself in such ardent terms, that prudence might have suspected their sincerity; but prudence is rarely found in the situation I had been unguardedly led into; besides, that the course of reading to which I had been accustomed, did not lead me to conclude, that his expressions could be too warm to be sincere: nor was I even alarmed at the manner in which he talked of marriage, a subjection, he often hinted, to which genuine love should scorn to be confined. The woman, he would often say, who had merit like mine to fix his affection, could easily command it for ever. That honour too which I revered, was often called in to enforce his sentiments. I did not, however, absolutely assent to them; but I found my regard for the opposite ones diminish by degrees. If it is dangerous to be convinced, it is ever dangerous to listen; for our reason is so much of a machine, that it will not always be able to resist, when the ear is perpetually assailed.

“ In short, Mr. Harley, (for I tire you with a relation, the catastrophe of which you will already have imagined) I fell a prey to his artifices. He had not been able

able so thoroughly to convert me, that my conscience was silent on the subject; but he was so assiduous to shew repeated proofs of unabated affection, that I hushed its suggestions as they rose. The world, however, I knew, was not to be silenced; and therefore I took some occasion to express my uneasiness to my seducer, and intreated him, as he valued the peace of one to whom he professed such an attachment, to remove it by a marriage. He made an excuse from the dependance he was under on the will of his father, but quieted my fears by the promise of endeavouring to win his assent.

" My father had been some days absent on a journey to see a relation, who was thought to be dying, from whom he had considerable expectations. I was left at home, with no other company than my books: my books I found were not now such companions as they used to be; I was restless, melancholy, unsatisfied with myself. But judge in situation when I received a billet from Mr. Winbrooke, informing me, that he had sounded Sir George on the subject we had talked of, and found him so averse to any match so unequal to his own rank and fortune,

that he was obliged, with whatever reluctance, to bid adieu to a place, the remembrance of which should ever be dear to him.

" I read this letter a hundred times over. Alone, helpless, conscious of guilt, and abandoned by every better thought, my mind was one dreadful scene of terror, confusion, and remorse. A thousand expedients suggested themselves, and a thousand fears told me they would be vain: at last, in an agony of despair, I packed up a few cloaths, took what money and trinkets were in the house, and set out for London, where I understood he was gone, pretending to my maid, that I had received letters from my father requiring my immediate attendance. I had no other companion than a boy, a servant to the man from whom I hired my horses. I arrived in London within an hour of Mr. Winbrooke, and accidentally alighted at the very inn where he was.

" He started and turned pale when he saw me; but recovered himself time enough to make many new protestations of regard, and beg me to make myself easy under a disappointment which was equally afflicting to him. He procured
me

me lodgings, where I slept, or rather endeavoured to sleep, for that night. Next morning I saw him again ; he then mildly observed on the imprudence of my precipitate flight from the country, and proposed my removing to lodgings at another end of the town, to elude the search of my father, till he should fall on some method of excusing my conduct to him, and reconciling him to my return. We took a hackney coach, and drove to the house he mentioned.

It was situated in a dirty lane, furnished with a taudry affectation of finery, with some old family pictures hanging on walls which their own cobwebs would have better suited. I was struck with a secret dread at entering ; nor was it lessened by the appearance of the landlady, who had that look of selfish shrewdness, which, of all others, is the most hateful to those whose feelings are untinctured with the world. A girl, who she told us was her niece, sat beside her, playing on a guitar, and she herself was sewing, with the assistance of spectacles, and had a prayer-book, with the leaves folded down in several places, lying on the table before her. Perhaps, Sir, I tire you with my minuteness ; but the place, and every cir-

circumstance about it, is so impressed on my mind, that I shall never forget it.

“ I dined that day with Mr. Winbrooke alone. He lost by degrees that restraint which I perceived too well to hang about him before, and with his former gaiety and good-humour, repeated the flattering things, which, though they had once been fatal, I durst not now distrust. At last, taking my hand and kissing it, “ It is thus, said he, that love will last, while freedom is preserved ; thus let us ever be blest, without the galling thought that we are tied to a condition where we may cease to be so ” I answered, “ That the world thought otherwise ; that it had certain ideas of good fame, which it was impossible not to wish to maintain.”

“ The world, said he, is a tyrant ; they are slaves who obey it : let us be happy without the pale of the world. To-morrow I shall leave this quarter of it, for one, where the talkers of the world shall be foiled, and lose us. Could not my Emily accompany me ? my friend, my companion, the mistress of my soul ! Nay, do not look so, Emily ! your father may grieve for a while, but your father shall be taken care of ; this bank-bill I intend as the comfort for his daughter.”

“ I could

“ I could contain myself no longer : Wretch, I exclaimed, dost thou imagine that my father’s heart could brook dependence on the destroyer of his child, and tamely accept of a base equivalent for her honour and his own ! ” “ Honour, my Emily, said he, is the word of fools, or of those wiser men who cheat them. It is a fantastic bauble that does not suit the gravity of your father’s age ; but, whatever it is, I am afraid it can never be perfectly restored to you : exchange the word then, and let pleasure be your object now.” At these words he clasped me in his arms, and pressed his lips rudely to my bosom. I started from my seat, “ Perfidious villain ! said I, who darest insult the weakness thou hast undone ; were that father here, thy coward soul would shrink from the vengeance of his honour ! Curst be that wretch who has deprived him of it ! oh ! doubly curst, who has dragged on his hoary head the infamy which should have crushed her own ! ” I snatched a knife which lay beside me, and would have plunged it in my breast ; but the monster prevented my purpose, and smiling with the grin of barbarous insult, “ Madam, said he, I confess you are rather too much in heroics for me : I am sorry we should differ about trifles ; but as

as I seem somehow to have offended you, I would willingly remedy it by taking my leave. You have been put to some foolish expence in this journey on my account ; allow me to reimburse you." So saying, he laid a bank bill, of what amount I had no patience to see, upon the table. Shame, grief, and indignation, choaked my utterance ; unable to speak my wrongs and unable to bear them in silence, I fell in a swoon at his feet.

" What happened in the interval I cannot tell ; but when I came to myself, I was in the arms of the landlady, with her niece chaffing my temples, and doing all in her power for my recovery. She had much compassion in her countenance : the old woman assumed the softest look she was capable of, and both endeavoured to bring me comfort. They continued to shew me many civilities, and even the aunt began to seem agreeable in my sight. To the wretched, to the forlorn, as I was, small offices of kindness are endearing.

" Mean time my money was fast spent, nor did I attempt to conceal my wants from their knowledge. I had frequent thoughts of returning to my father ; but the

the dread of a life of scorn is insurmountable. I avoided therefore going abroad when I had a chance of being seen by any former acquaintance, nor indeed did my health for a great while permit it ; and suffered the old woman, at her own suggestion, to call me niece at home, where we now and then saw (when they could prevail on me to leave my room) one or two other elderly women, and sometimes a grave business-like man, who shewed great compassion for my indisposition, and made me very obligingly an offer of a room at his country-house for the recovery of my health. This offer I did not choose to accept ; but told my landlady, " that I should be glad to be employed in any way of business which my skill in needle-work could recommend me to ; confessing, at the same time, that I was afraid I should scarce be able to pay her what I already owed for board and lodging, and that for her other good offices, I had nothing but thanks to give her."

" My dear child, said she, do not talk of paying ; since I lost my own sweet girl, (here she wept) your very picture she was, Miss Emily, I have nobody, except my niece, to whom I should leave any little thing

thing I have been able to save : you shall live with me, my dear, and I have sometimes a little millinery work, which, when you are inclined to it, you may assist us in. By the way, here are a pair of ruffles we have just finished for that gentleman you saw here at tea ; he is a distant relation of mine, and a worthy man he is. It was pity you refused his offer of a room at his country-house ; my niece, you know, was to have accompanied you, and you might have fancied yourself at home : a most sweet place it is, and but a short mile beyond Hamstead. Who knows, Miss Emily, what effects such a visit might have had : if I had half your beauty, I should not waste it pining after e'er a worthless fellow of them all." I felt my heart swell at her words ; I would have been angry if I could ; but I was in that stupid state which is not easily awakened to anger : when I would have chid her, the reproof stuck in my throat ; I could only weep !

" Her want of respect increased, as I had not spirit to assert it ; my work was now rather imposed than offered, and I became a drudge for the bread I eat : but my dependance and servility grew in proportion, and I was now in a situation which

which could not make any extraordinary exertions to disengage itself from either. I found myself with child.

“ At last the wretch, who had thus trained me to destruction, hinted the purpose for which these means had been followed. I discovered her to be an artful procurer for the pleasures of those, who are men of decency to the world in the midst of debauchery.

“ I roused every spark of courage within me at the horrid proposal. She treated my passion at first somewhat mildly ; but when I continued to exert it, she resented it with insult, and told me plainly, That if I did not soon comply with her desires, I should pay her every farthing I owed, or rot in goal for life. I trembled at the thought ; still, however, I resisted her importunities, and she put her threats in execution. I was conveyed to prison, weak from my condition, weaker from that struggle of grief and misery which for some time I had suffered. A miscarriage was the consequence.

“ Amidst all the horrors of such a state, surrounded with wretches callous to feeling, lost alike to humanity and to shame, think,

think, Mr. Harley, think what I endured, nor wonder that I at last yielded to the solicitations of that miscreant I had seen at her house, and sunk to the prostitution which he offered. But that was happiness compared to what I have suffered since He soon abandoned me to the common use of the town, and I was cast among those miserable beings in whose society I have since remained.

“ Oh ! did the daughters of virtue know our sufferings ! did they see our hearts torn with anguish amidst the affectation of gaiety which our faces are obliged to assume ! our bodies tortured by disease, our minds with that consciousness which they cannot lose ! Did they know, did they think of this, Mr. Harley !—their censures are just ; but their pity perhaps might spare the wretches whom their justice should condemn.

“ Last night, but for an exertion of benevolence which the infection of our infamy prevents even in the humane, had I been thrust out from this miserable place which misfortune has yet left me ; exposed to the brutal insults of drunkenness, or dragged by that justice which I could not bribe, to the punishment which may correct

correct, but, alas ! can never amend the abandoned objects of its terrors. From that, Mr. Harley, your goodness has relieved me."

He beckoned with his hand : he would have stopped the mention of his favours ; but he could not speak, had it been to have begged a diadem.

She saw his tears ; her fortitude began to fail at the sight, when the voice of some stranger on the stairs awakened her attention. She listened for a moment ; then starting up, exclaimed, " Merciful God ! my father's voice !"

She had scarce uttered the word, when the door burst open, and a man entered in the garb of an officer. When he discovered his daughter and Harley, he started back a few paces ; his look assumed a furious wildness ! he laid his hand on his sword. The two objects of his wrath did not utter a syllable. " Villain, he cried, thou seest a father who had once a daughter's honour to preserve ; blasted as it now is, behold him ready to avenge its loss !"

Harley had by this time some power of utterance. "Sir, said he, if you will be a moment calm"—"Infamous coward! interrupted the other, dost thou preach calmness to wrongs like mine?" He drew his sword. "Sir, said Harley, let me tell you"—The blood ran quicker to his cheek—his pulse beat one—no more—and regained the temperament of humanity!—"You are deceived, Sir, said he, you are much deceived; but I forgive suspicions which your misfortunes have justified: I would not wrong you, upon my soul I would not, for the dearest gratification of a thousand worlds; my heart bleeds for you!"

His daughter was now prostrate at his feet. "Strike, said she, strike here a wretch, whose misery cannot end but with that death she deserves." Her hair had fallen on her shoulders! her look had the horrid calmness of out-breathed despair! Her father would have spoken; his lip quivered, his cheek grew pale! his eyes lost the lightning of their fury! there was a reproach in them, but with a mingling of pity! He turned them up to heaven,—then on his daughter.—He laid

his

his left hand on his heart—the sword dropped from his right—he burst into tears.

END OF VOLUME I.